

# MESSIAH LUTHERAN

*Skidaway Island*

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

**Sunday, April 19, 2026**  
**Third Sunday of Easter**



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1 West Ridge Road, Savannah, GA 31411  
(912) 598-1188  
[www.messiahsi.org](http://www.messiahsi.org)

# GATHERING

## CHIMING OF THE HOUR

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Steve Derr*

## PRELUDE “Come, Ye Faithful”

*Shirley Newhart, organ*

arr. Hughes

## \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth,  
our light and our salvation.

People: **Amen.**

Leader: Let us come into the light,  
the revealing and healing light of God.

Leader: God of grace and glory,

People: **you have brought us through the night of sin  
into the light of Jesus’ resurrection.  
Yet our lives are still shadowed by sin.  
Make us alive in Christ, O God.  
Make us new as you make all things new.  
Rescue us from evil and the gloom of sin,  
renew us in grace,  
and restore us to living in your holiness,  
through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.  
Amen.**

WELCOME TO THIS  
WORSHIP CELEBRA-  
TION of the living  
Christ’s presence in  
our midst. Christ  
comes to us with new  
life and strength for  
Christian living in  
daily life through the  
hearing of the Word,  
preaching, prayer,  
song, and community.

*As the Confession and  
Forgiveness begins, all  
may make the sign of  
the cross, the sign that  
is marked at baptism.*

*Congregational re-  
sponses are in bold*

*\* Asterisks through-  
out the order of  
worship indicate  
the people stand-  
ing, in body and/or  
in spirit.*

Leader: Rejoice with all creation around God's throne!  
 The light of the risen Christ  
 puts to flight all evil deeds, washes away sin,  
 restores innocence to the fallen,  
 casts out hate, brings peace,  
 and humbles earthly pride.  
 Jesus Christ loves you  
 and † frees you from your sins by his blood.  
 To him be glory and dominion forever and ever!

People: Amen.

**\*GATHERING SONG** "As We Gather at Your Table"

*Hymn 522*



1 As we gath-er at your ta-ble, as we lis-ten to your word,  
 2 Turn our wor-ship in-to wit-ness in the sac-ra-ment of life;  
 3 Gra-cious Spir-it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.  
 where tri-um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa-cred sto-ry till we claim it as our own;  
 Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for-give as you for-gave;  
 There no more will en-vy blind us nor will pride our peace de-stroy,



teach us through this ho-ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic-t'ry known.  
 may we still be-hold your im-age in the world you died to save.  
 as we join with saints and an-gels to re-peat the sound-ing joy.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944  
 Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710  
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**\*GREETING**

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the  
 communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

*Easter is the demon-  
 stration of God that  
 life is essentially spir-  
 itual and timeless.*

—Charles M. Crowe

## \*DIALOGUE

Leader: Lord have mercy.

People: **Christ have mercy.**

Leader: Christ have mercy.

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

## ANTHEM “Jesus is King”

Traditional

*Chancel Choir*

Adapted by Henderson

*Jesus is King, Jesus is King, Jesus is King of all kings.*

*Jesus the name, Jesus the name, Jesus the Name above names.*

*Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord of my life.*

## WORD

*Steve Derr, Reader*

### FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

*New Testament 103*

*Today’s reading is the conclusion of Peter’s sermon preached following the giving of the Holy Spirit to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. The center of his preaching is the bold declaration that God has made the crucified Jesus both Lord and Christ.*

<sup>14a</sup> Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: <sup>36</sup> “Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

<sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” <sup>38</sup> Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to

*The reading of Scripture is when God makes known his will: God desires mercy and salvation.*

*Ultimately, this word points us to the Word, the incarnate Son of God.*

*Through Christ — God’s only Son — are we able to know the Father’s favor and grace*

him.”<sup>40</sup> And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.”<sup>41</sup> So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALMODY: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19**

*I will call on the name of the LORD. (Ps. 116:13)*

Leader: <sup>1</sup> I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,  
and listened to my supplication,

**People: <sup>2</sup> for the LORD has given ear to me  
whenever I called.**

Leader: <sup>3</sup> The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the  
grave came upon me; I came to grief and sorrow.

**People: <sup>4</sup> Then I called upon the name of the LORD:  
“O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”**

Leader: <sup>12</sup> How shall I repay the LORD  
or all the good things God has done for me?

**People: <sup>13</sup> I will lift the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the LORD.**

Leader: <sup>14</sup> I will fulfill my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all God’s people.

**People: <sup>15</sup> Precious in your sight, O LORD,  
is the death of your servants.**

Leader: <sup>16</sup> O LORD, truly I am your servant;  
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you  
have freed me from my bonds.

**People: <sup>17</sup> I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and call upon the name of the LORD.**

Leader: <sup>18</sup> I will fulfill my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all God’s people,

**People: <sup>19</sup> in the courts of the LORD’s house,  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!**

## SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:17-23

*New Testament 205*

*The imagery of exile is used to help the readers of this letter understand that they are strangers in a strange land. Christians no longer belong to this age. Through the death of Christ we belong to God, so that our focus, faith, and hope are no longer on such things as silver or gold.*

<sup>17</sup> If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person's work, live in fear during the time of your exile. <sup>18</sup> You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. <sup>20</sup> He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. <sup>21</sup> Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God.

<sup>22</sup> Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. <sup>23</sup> You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



### \*GOSPEL: Luke 24:13-35

*New Testament 78*

*The colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus answers the question of how Jesus is to be recognized among us. Here, he is revealed through the scriptures and in the breaking of bread*

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup> Now on that same day two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup> and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup> While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup> but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup> And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup> Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” <sup>19</sup> He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup> But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. <sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup> and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.” <sup>25</sup> Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” <sup>27</sup> Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

<sup>28</sup> As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” <sup>33</sup> That same hour they got up and returned to

*April's Eternal Candle  
is given by Dawn  
Meade "in loving  
memory of her dad  
John Schaffner."*

Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup> They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" <sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON** "The Hidden Christ"

*Reverend Jason Talsness*

### \*HYMN OF THE DAY "With High Delight Let Us Unite"

*Hymn 368*



1 With high de - light let us u - nite in  
2 True God, he first from death has burst forth  
3 Let prais - es ring; give thanks, and bring to



songs of great ju - bi - la - tion. You pure in heart, all  
in - to life, all sub - du - ing. His en - e - my now  
Christ our Lord ad - o - ra - tion. His hon - or speed by



bear your part, sing Je - sus Christ, our sal - va - tion. To  
van - quished see; his death has been death's un - do - ing. "And  
word and deed to ev - 'ry land, ev - 'ry na - tion. So



set us free for - ev - er, he is ris'n and sends to  
yours shall be like vic - to - ry o'er death and grave," says  
shall his love give us a - bove, from mis - er - y and



all earth's ends good news to save ev - 'ry na - tion.  
he, who gave his life for us, life re - new - ing.  
death set free, all joy and full con - so - la - tion.

Text: Georg Vetter, 1536-1599; tr. Martin H. Franzmann, 1907-1976, alt.  
Music: MIT FREUDEN ZART, medieval European tune  
Text © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.

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# HOLY BAPTISM

ELIZABETH DEBORAH GRABB

## PRESENTATION

*Candidates for baptism, sponsors, and parents gather with the minister at the font.*

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly:*

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

*Sponsor(s):* I present Elizabeth Deborah Grabb for baptism.

*The presiding minister addresses parents and others:*

*Presiding minister:* Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Elizabeth Deborah baptized into Christ?

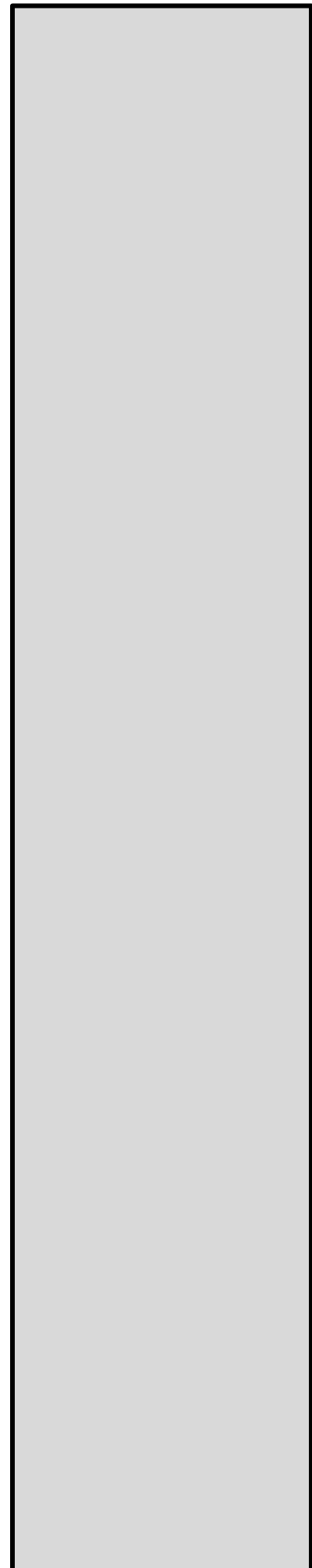
*Response:* I do.

*Presiding Minister:* As you bring Elizabeth Deborah to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with her among God's faithful people,  
bring her to the word of God and the holy supper,  
teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,  
place in their hands the holy scriptures,  
and nurture her in faith and prayer,  
so that she may learn to trust God,  
proclaim Christ through word and deed,  
care for others and the world God made,  
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help Elizabeth Deborah grow in the Christian faith and life?

*Response:* I do.



*The presiding minister addresses the sponsor(s):*

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Elizabeth Deborah in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

*Response:* I do.

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly:*

People of God, do you promise to support Elizabeth Deborah and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

*Response:* We do.

### **\*PROFESSION OF FAITH**

*The presiding minister addresses the parents and sponsors:* I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

*Response:* I renounce them.

*The presiding minister addresses the parents, sponsors, and the assembly.*

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

## **\*THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT**

*At the font, the presiding minister begins the thanksgiving.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

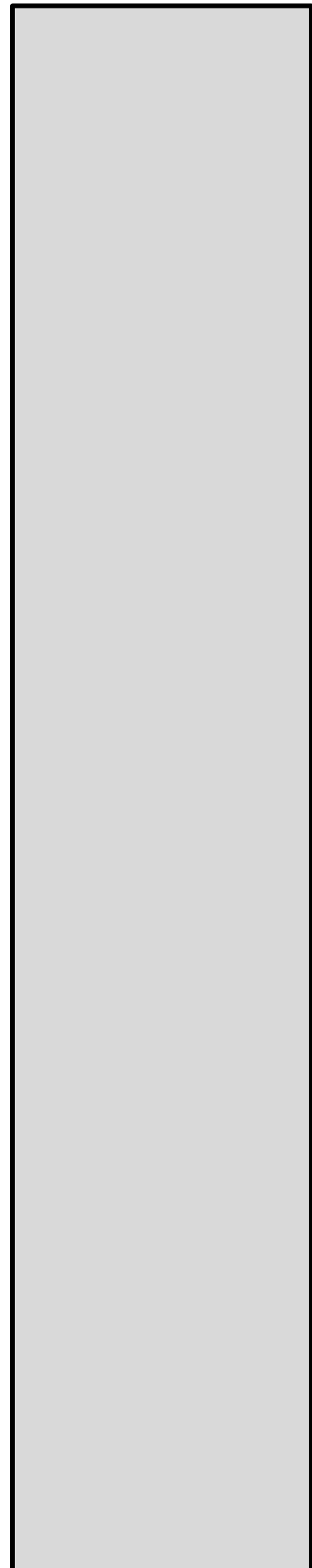
Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things. Your voice thundered over the waters at creation. You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy all living things.

Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom. In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock, and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land.

By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise. He sends us to make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your daughters and sons, no longer slave and free, no longer male and female, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**



## **\*BAPTISM**

*Presiding minister:* Elizabeth Deborah, I baptize you in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**You belong to Christ,  
in whom you have been baptized.**

**Alleluia.**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughter new birth, cleanse her from sin, and raise her to eternal life.

*Laying both hands on Elizabeth Deborah, the minister prays:*

Sustain with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized. Oil prepared for this purpose may be used. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:*

Elizabeth Deborah, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**Amen.**

## **\*WELCOME**

*A lighted candle is given to the sponsor as a representative of the congregation says:*

Let your light so shine before others  
that they may see your good works  
and glorify your Father in heaven.

*The ministers and the baptismal group face the assembly. A representative of the congregation leads the assembly in the welcome.*

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share:  
join us in giving thanks and praise to God  
and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

*Those who have gathered at the font may return to their places.*

### **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*(In between the petitions of the prayers, the following response is offered.)*

**Leader:** Merciful God,

**People:** **Receive our prayer.**

*(Final petition and response.)*

**Leader:** God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers  
to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world,  
through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**People:** **Amen.**

## **MEAL**

### **\*DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

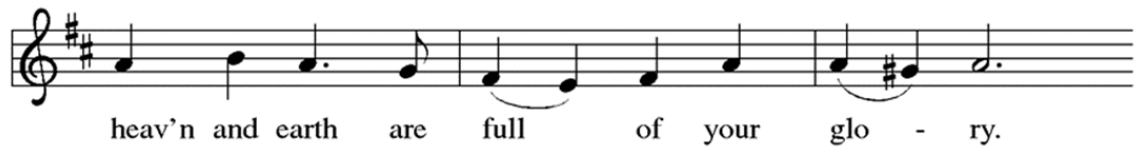
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

### **\*PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ...  
We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## **\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



## **\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

### **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

### **\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

## COMMUNION SONG "Lamb of God"



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION

### \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Holy One,

People: through this meal you have made your home among us  
and are making all things new.

Send us as bearers of your peace and healing.

Amen.

## SENDING

### \*PASTORAL BLESSING

Leader: God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,  
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,  
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,  
✠ bless you now and forever.

People: Amen.

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**\*SENDING SONG** "This Joyful Eastertide"

Hymn 391



1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and  
2 My flesh in hope shall rest and for a sea - son  
3 Death's flood has lost its chill since Je - sus crossed the



sor - - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied, has  
slum - - ber till trump from east to west shall  
riv - - er. Lov - er of souls, from ill my



sprung to life this mor - - row.  
wake the dead in num - - ber.  
pass - ing soul de - liv - - er.

*Refrain*



Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three-day pris - on, our



faith had been in vain. But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -



ris - en, a - ris - en, a - ris - en.

Text: George R. Woodward, 1848-1934  
Music: VRUECHTEN, Dutch folk tune, 17th cent.

**\*DISMISSAL**

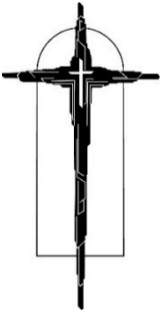
Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**\*POSTLUDE** "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing"

Manz

Shirley Newhart, organ



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, April 19	9:00 am Worship 10:20 Adult Discipleship Class 10:20 am Confirmation Class 5:00 pm Johnson-Liu Recital
Monday, April 20	10:00 am Women's Bible Study <i>6:30 pm Mahjong</i>
Tuesday, April 21	2:00 pm Outreach Team
Wednesday, April 22	8:30 am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice
Thursday, April 23	
Friday, April 24	
Saturday, April 25	

*Italics indicate outside group*

## MESSIAH OFFICE HOURS

*Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday-9:00 am to 4:00 pm*

*Closed for lunch from 12:00 to 1:00 pm*

*Wednesday-8:30 am to 11:30 am*

*Friday-Closed*

## ONLINE GIVING

Please consider making a one-time or recurring gift to Messiah using the secure online portal at the website ([messiahsi.org](http://messiahsi.org)) and clicking on the Give tab. Another option to reach the portal is to scan this QR code using your smartphone's QR reader. This link may be used for paying for altar flowers and other church-related activities. Questions? Contact the Church Office.



If you would like to give the old-fashioned way, the offering plate is on the table as you exit the Sanctuary.



# THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Ministers	The People of Messiah
Pastor	Jason Talsness
Pastor, Congregational Care	Karen Scheib
Director, Faith Formation	Ken Ritz
Pastor Emeritus	James Peper
Presiding Bishop ELCA	Yehiel Curry
Bishop, SE Synod ELCA	Kevin Strickland
Director of Music & Organist	Shirley Newhart
Choral Director	Rodney Powers
Altar Guild	Lisa Oswald
Reader	Steve Derr
Evangelism Greeters	Kathy & Ken Ritz
Ushers	Clyde Olson and Parker Pearson
Acolytes	Confirmation Class
Communion Assistants	Bonnie LaPread, Randi VenHuizen & Brad VenHuizen
Audio Visual	Steve Allen and Ken McLauchlan
Coffee Hour	Christine Lind (coffee) and Lynn McLauchlan (treats)

## MILESTONES THIS WEEK

*Birthdays: Jan Hazel 04/19, Connie Ray 04/20, Bob Farr 04/21*

*Anniversaries: None*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## WOMEN'S RETREAT-FINAL PLANS

May 15-17, 2026

### Epworth-by-the Sea, St. Simons Island

Karen Scheib will lead the sessions focused on the theme “Our Story and God’s Story,” which will feature examination of participants’ own life stories and how God’s story intersects with their stories. There will be creative exercises, written reflections, small group discussions, and crafts. The retreat will also include free time to explore the Center and the island. The Parish Life Ministry will provide \$50 per person to help defray the cost. This means that the total cost will be \$250 per person for each shared hotel-like room with 2 queen beds and a balcony overlooking the river. Price includes 6 meals. Cost of a private room is \$380 for the 2 nights.

**If you submitted a deposit, the balance is due no later than Sunday, April 20, 2026.** That is \$200 for a shared room and \$330 for a private room. You can pay the balance by writing a check and note Women’s Retreat on memo line. You can also pay by credit card online at Messiah’s website (messiahsi.org). If you want to pay online, contact the Church Office (912.598.1188; messiahsk@gmail.com) for details.

Need more information? Want to sign up now? There are registration forms on the Narthex Kiosk that are due April 20. Have questions? Contact Parish Life Chair Gayle Denny (513.604.0764).

## COME ONE, COME ALL 2026-27 Fellowship Dinners Deadline: Sunday April 27

It’s that time of year again—time to sign up for Messiah’s Fellowship Dinners for the coming year. They are open to anyone, singles or couples, and are a great way to meet new members, to renew friendships, and to enjoy each other’s company in member homes. Groups of six to eight people meet three or four times over the year. Each person/couple hosts one time, providing the main course and beverages. For the other gatherings, they alternate providing an appetizer, salad, or dessert.

Sign up now on the Narthex Kiosk by April 27. Group assignments will be made by early May. Need more information? Contact Lana Gilster (952.250.7510; lanagilster@earthlink.net) or Layne Rabold (912.598.9313; [lalayne@yahoo.net](mailto:lalayne@yahoo.net)).

## SPECIAL PERFORMANCE Sunday, April 19, 5 pm

Oskar Johnson-Liu will present a sophomore cello recital Sunday, April 19, at 5pm in Messiah’s Sanctuary. He will perform the Haydn Cello Concerto in D Major and the Brahms Cello Sonata in e minor. He will be accompanied by Dr. Gerald Anderson, former piano faculty of Olivet Nazarene University in Kankakee, Illinois. Oskar is so grateful for the kindness and support the Messiah congregation gives him as he continues his cello performing!

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL UPDATE

July 6-10, 2026

Planning is underway for this summer's Vacation Bible School (VBS), and registration is open on Messiah's website ([messiahsi.org](http://messiahsi.org)). The theme is *Kingdom Quest*. Planners still need help for the team leaders.

The two newest leaders will head up the Décor Team—Penny LeBlanc and Debra Coon will be executing the design plans during May and early June. If you are willing to help with painting, wrapping, cutting and gluing, this is the VBS volunteer role for you. It takes a congregation to make VBS happen! For more information or to volunteer, contact Peggy Pearson (443.995.1146).

## SERMON PREVIEW

### The Hidden Christ

In Luke's account of Easter in Luke 24, two disciples are walking from Jerusalem on the road to Emmaus. They are overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! And then—quietly, almost unnoticed—Jesus joins them.

That's the strange center of the story: Christ is present but hidden. He listens. He lets them tell their story, even as they get it wrong. He speaks to their confusion, opening the scriptures, reframing everything—and still, they do not know him. Not until they break bread together do they recognize Jesus. Then, he mysteriously disappears.

Where in your life do you find yourself saying, “We had hoped...”—and what assumptions about Christ might be hidden in that statement? What expectations do you carry about how Christ should appear—and how might those expectations prevent recognition? Can you recall a moment that only later seemed meaningful or “alive,” even though you did not recognize it at the time?

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<sup>1</sup> Greg Stinson is serving the second year of a three-year term that ends in 2027.

<sup>2</sup> George Lawrence is serving the first year of a three-year term that ends in 2028.





IN THE NAME of JESUS  
MESSIAH LUTHERAN

*Welcome*  
*Grow*  
*Support*  
*Serve*